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Under the Dome, McKissick Museum Newsletter

McKissick Museum

Fall 2007

Under the Dome - Fall 2007

McKissick Museum--University of South Carolina

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UNDER *the* DOME

Telling the Story of Southern Life

McKISSICK MUSEUM NEWSLETTER • FALL 2007

Natural Curiosity

Azurite with some Malachite
H: 5 ½ in. L: 11 in. W: 5 in.



People are curious about the world around them. In all cultures and times human beings have collected and tried to understand the diversity of nature. From the early “wonder cabinets” containing examples of exotic and precious trophies brought from around the then-known world to today’s highly focused systematic collections, studying examples of nature has been acknowledged as a way to gain insights into deeper questions about the universe and our place within it.

From the date of its founding in the early 19th century, natural science study has been a strength of the University of South Carolina. By the 1850s South Carolina College had assembled impressive mineral, plant, fossil, and animal specimen collections. These were used by the faculty in teaching and in their own research. The quality of the college’s collection was such that it was ranked as one of the top three in the United States. In the 20th century, the University slowly recuperated from the period following the Civil War by rebuilding the mineral and plant holdings as well as adding new collections.

While many of these collections are no longer used in the classroom, they are an unmatched resource for understanding the history of science and the continuing fascination we have with the stuff of nature. With major support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and additional funding from the J. Harry Howard Endowment, McKissick Museum is reinstalling the University’s natural science collections. This presentation not only makes an unprecedented number of specimens available for viewing, but also looks at the history of collecting nature, both at the University and by the wider public. Ultimately, it asks the question of where we go from here now that ecosystems and species are disappearing at their fastest rate in millions of years.



Sand Dollar Fossils
(*Periarctus* sp.) in Matrix
Miocene Age, Loudon, France
L: 12 in. W: 8 ½ in. H: 3 in.
Purchased with funds from the
Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

Explore and Celebrate Nature at McKissick Museum This Fall!



Pentacrinites, fossil mold, detail
From Lynne Regis, England
Collected by Thomas Cooper
L: 19 7/8 in. W: 7 ¾ in.

Natural Curiosity, a long-term exhibition on the University of South Carolina Natural Science Collections, opens Oct. 13, 2007.

A Sense of Wonder, nature- and science-based paintings by Carolina faculty member Pam Bowers, is on view until Jan. 19, 2008.

“Fall for Art,” a garden event and nature tour with Rudy Mancke, will be held at the home of Hannah and Ron Rogers on Oct. 23, 2007. (Call the museum for ticket information, 803-777-7251.)

Join us for refreshments and special tours of the exhibits *Natural Curiosity* and *A Sense of Wonder* on Nov. 8, 2007, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

“Fall for Art”



McKissick Museum is expanding beyond the Horseshoe for our “Fall for Art” event on Tuesday, Oct. 23! Take a walk with Rudy Mancke, naturalist and McKissick Museum Council member, through the gardens of Hannah and Ron Rogers. Rudy will point out and discuss the wonders of nature found in and around this lovely Columbia garden. Hannah’s garden has many “rooms” and is enchanting at night.

The 30-minute tours with Rudy begin at 4:30 p.m., and the last one begins at 7 p.m. After your walk, you can view and purchase art as well as enjoy seasonal food and drink. A special private tour led by Rudy Mancke will be auctioned during the evening as well.

This very special evening promises to be educational and entertaining. It is a fund-raiser for McKissick Museum and celebrates our new exhibit, *Natural Curiosity: USC and the Evolution of Scientific Inquiry into the Natural World*. What better way of telling the story of community, culture, and the environment than a fall garden walk?

Tickets are \$50 per person and must be purchased in advance. Tour times are available on a first-call basis and space is limited. The Rogers’ address is 828 Kilbourne Drive, Columbia, S.C. Call 803-777-7251 for reservations, or stop by the museum today!

Key Ingredients



Through a partnership with the Humanities CouncilSC and the Smithsonian Institution, the exhibit *Key Ingredients: America by Food* will visit South Carolina in 2008. *Key Ingredients* explores and celebrates the everyday—the food we take for granted—through an entertaining and informative overview of our country’s diverse regional cooking and eating traditions. Many of the foods South Carolinians eat today have long become “comfort” foods—grits, barbecue, liver pudding, hash—we eat them because they taste good and they wrap us up in a sweet nostalgia. We forget most of these food traditions were born out of heartache, struggle, and pain.

South Carolina has long been a cultural stew. Since the Spaniards made contact with Native Americans in the 1500s and enslaved West Africans arrived a century later, folks have been sharing recipes and ingredients. Groups from several continents—Africa, South America, Europe, Asia—converged and lived together, often at odds. The cultural dialogue is just as dynamic today as it was then. Ethnic groups continue to introduce new culinary traditions as they settle in the region.

How does South Carolina fit into the larger culinary journey? Are we really different from other folks throughout the country? The five South Carolina venues hosting *Key Ingredients* will offer solid evidence of our rich diversity. Look for the exhibit at the following venues beginning in June 2008: Belton Area Museum Association, Elloree Heritage Museum, National Bean Market Museum, Edgefield County Peach Museum, and the Edisto Island Museum.

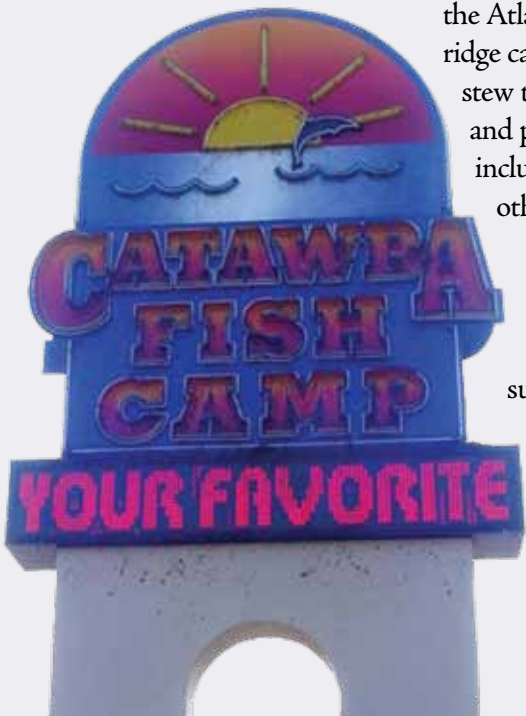
“Burgoo! The Mythical Stew of Kentucky” ...



Below: Catawba Fish Camp, Lancaster County, S.C.

Top Left: Russ Kennedy, Burgoo master, talking with Stan Woodward

Bottom Left: Big Jim Conway, the “Burgoo King” of Frankfort, Ky.



Since 2005, McKissick and videographer Stan Woodward have been working on a documentary about Burgoo—a stew tradition with deep roots in Kentucky. Funded through the Kentucky Arts Council, project staff spent several weeks working in the state. After several thousand miles, gallons of Burgoo, and hundreds of hours in the editing studio, the project is nearing completion.

What is Burgoo? What’s with the funny name? A country cousin to Brunswick Stew, Burgoo was born on the “frontier”—west of the Appalachians—in the mid 1700s from the stews cooked by hunting parties throughout the region over the years. Burgoo crossed the Atlantic with sailors in the 1600s as a thick, grain-based porridge called *Burghul*. Although the name is shrouded in history, the stew thrives as an expression of family and community identity and pride. While some burgoo recipes are distinguished by the inclusion of mutton, many recipes include chicken, beef, pork, or other “animals that got too close to the pot.”

Our Kentucky Burgoo journey goes through the heart of horse country, the urban bar scene, community festivals, distilleries, family farms, and church picnics. During the summer, dozens of Catholic churches cook hundreds of gallons of Burgoo and thousands of pounds of barbecue. These picnics serve as fund-raisers, homecomings, and community festivals. Look for the finished production to air on Kentucky’s Public Television this fall. To order a copy of the documentary, visit www.stanwoodward.com.

A Sense of Wonder

Works by Pam Bowers



*Viviparous Quetzalcoatl, Pam Bowers
Oil on canvas, 2007, Collection of Pam Bowers*

Through her skills as a painter and photographer, Pam Bowers utilizes the relationship between imagination and fact to express her sense of wonder at the natural world that surrounds her. Bowers believes that humans have a dual relationship with nature. Her artwork depicts our inherent awe for the mysteries of biology and at the same time the human need to intellectually comprehend and control it.

As she concentrated on this complex relationship between human

experience and the natural world, several distinct series of works emerged in her art. In each, Bowers' use of a mixture of techniques, including painting, digital printing, and cyanotypes, allows her to fully illustrate her themes on the connection between exploring the natural world through science and understanding the natural world through ancient mythological tales. The works in this exhibition dramatically express her intention to integrate the fundamentals of intellectual understanding of life with a visionary world of allegory and metaphor. As we struggle with trying to balance the importance of intuition and the intellectual knowledge throughout our contemporary culture, Bowers offers a stimulating glimpse into a world that encompasses both scientific study and artistic curiosity.

A Sense of Wonder is on display Aug. 11, 2007–Jan. 19, 2008.



Rockhounds:

A Look at the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

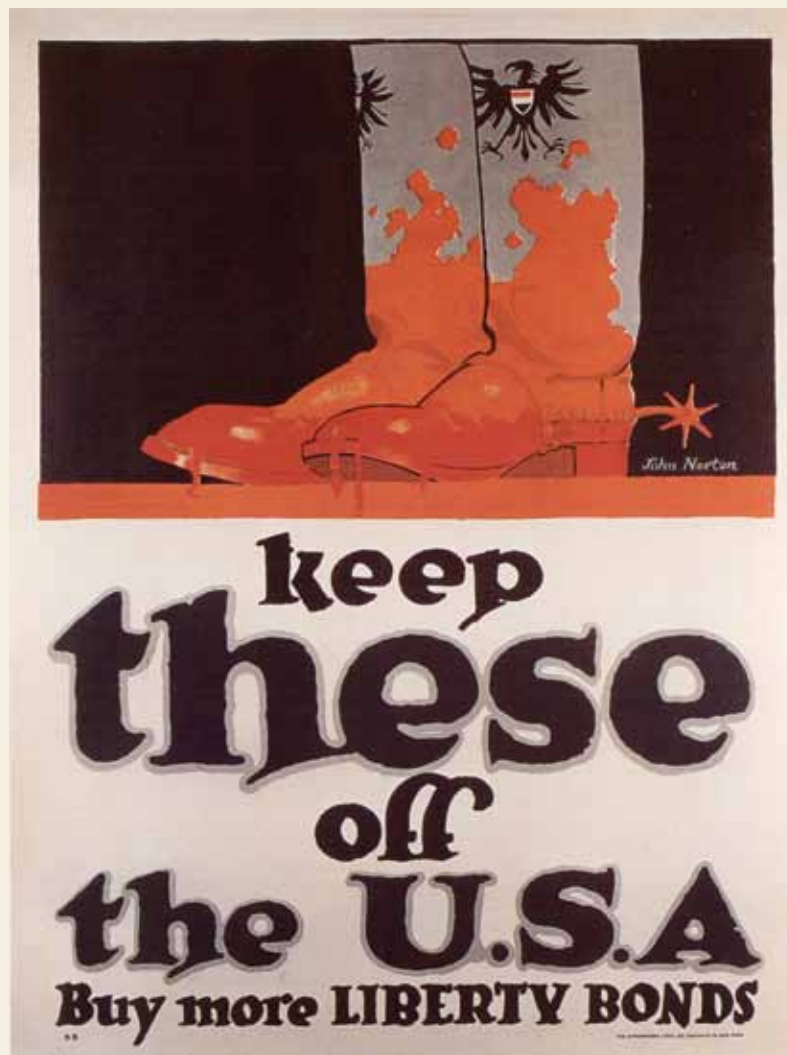
Amethyst, Jackson's Crossroads, S.C., 2006

Early in 1965, Columbians Maggie Clark and Louis Dezseran sent out radio and newspaper requests seeking like-minded people interested in collecting and sharing information on rocks, minerals, and gems. By February the group had gathered at the Richland County Public Library and formed the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society. Since that first meeting, the society has been actively involved in South Carolina's geological community. This exhibition of specimens and images, located on the third floor of the museum, highlights the society (whose members sometimes refer to themselves as "rockhounds") by examining their history, mission, and outreach.

The Columbia Gem and Mineral Society has also made a significant impact on the museum over the years. Each year, the society contributes funds to be used toward natural science acquisition.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society, please contact the museum at 803-777-7251.

A Call for All: The Great War Summons the Palmetto State



Don't miss the following fall events associated with the Columbia World War I consortium Forward Together: World War I in South Carolina.

The University of South Carolina will host an academic symposium on Oct. 5 and 6. This two-day event will examine South Carolina's experiences during the war, as well as larger national issues, including the influenza pandemic, contributions of women and African Americans, and President Woodrow Wilson's wartime leadership and legacy. The symposium will include noted scholars from Carolina and around the country and will be held at Capstone House, located at the corner of Barnwell and College streets. A reception will be held on Oct. 5, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the South Caroliniana Library on the University's historic Horseshoe. Information about the symposium, registration, and Forward Together is available at www.scforwardtogether.org/info.html.

A gallery talk and viewing of the new ETV documentary *Over Here* will be offered at McKissick Museum on Nov. 1, 2007. The talk begins at 5:30 p.m., with a viewing of *Over Here* following at 6 p.m. The exhibition, on display through March 14, 2008, explores the various propaganda techniques used to encourage every South Carolinian to support the United States' interest in The Great War.

Forward Together is funded in part by the Partnership for a Nation of Learners, a leadership initiative by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the Institute for Museum and Library Services.

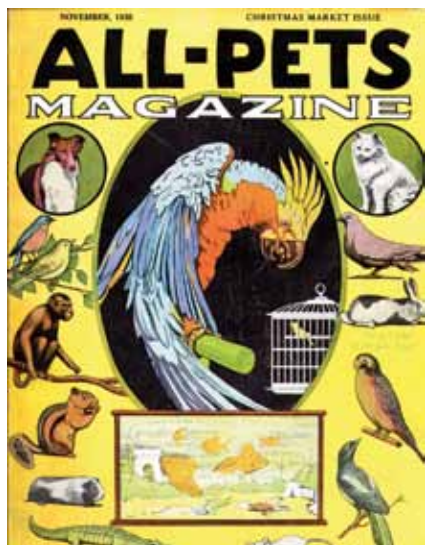
WWI Keep these off the U.S.A.: Buy more Liberty Bonds

John Norton

Lithograph on paper, 1917–1918

Courtesy Joseph M. Brucoli Great War Collection, Thomas Cooper Library, University of South Carolina

McKissick on the Road



Cover of All Pets Magazine
Paper and ink, 1935

It has been a busy year for McKissick's traveling exhibitions program. A number of exhibits have been on display at museums across the eastern seaboard, from Florida to Massachusetts, and have received excellent reviews. Perhaps the biggest news is that *Pets in America*, the largest of them, continues to receive great publicity and increased demand from other museums. Therefore, its traveling schedule has been extended to 2009.

The coming months look to be even busier as the following exhibitions will be hitting the road: *Southern Stews* (Mountain Heritage Center, Cullowhee, N.C.), *A Soldier's Legacy* (Belton Area Museum, Belton, S.C.), *The Middle Passage* (King-Tisdell Cottage Foundation and the Beach Institute, Savannah, Ga.), and *Pets in America* (Winterthur Museum and Gardens, Winterthur, Del.)

Exhibitions

Natural Curiosity:

USC and the Evolution of

Scientific Inquiry in the Natural World

Oct. 13, 2007—a semipermanent installation

A Sense of Wonder:

Works by Pam Bowers

through Jan. 19, 2008

A Call for All:

The Great War Summons the Palmetto State

through March 14, 2008

Rockhounds:

A Look at the Columbia Gem and Mineral Society

through fall of 2007



College of Arts and Sciences
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208

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Columbia, SC

Telling the Story of Southern Life ...

Community, Culture, and the Environment



The McKissick Museum is located at the head of the University of South Carolina's historic Horseshoe in the heart of campus. All exhibitions are free and open to the public.

Gallery hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The museum is open from 11a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. McKissick is closed on Sundays. Metered parking is available on all adjacent streets and in the lower level of Pendleton Street Garage.

A number of volunteer opportunities are available at the McKissick Museum. Call 803-777-7251 for information on membership, tours, programs, and exhibits. Visit us on the Internet at www.cas.sc.edu/mcks.

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